

## DROMORE WORKHOUSE.

RETURN to an Order of the Honourable The House of Commons,  
dated 24 January 1881;—*for*,

COPIES " of a LETTER from the Member for *Sligo* to the Chief Secretary to the Lord Lieutenant of *Ireland*, demanding a Sworn Inquiry into certain matters connected with the Management and Discipline of the WORKHOUSE at *Dromore West*, County *Sligo* : "

" Of the OFFICIAL NOTES of EVIDENCE taken at the Inquiry by Captain *Spaight*, Local Government Board Inspector, and his REPORT thereon : "

" Of the consequent LETTER from the Secretary of the Irish Local Government Board to the Clerk of the *Dromore West* Board of Guardians : "

" Of any COMMUNICATION on the Subject from the *Dromore West* Board of Guardians to the Irish Local Government Board : "

" And, of a LETTER from the Under Secretary to the Lord Lieutenant of *Ireland* to the Member for *Sligo*, announcing the Result of the Inquiry. "

---

— 1. —

LETTER from Mr. *Sexton*, M.P., to the Chief Secretary to the Lord Lieutenant of *Ireland*.

20, North Frederick-street, Dublin,  
11 October 1880.

Sir,

I CONSIDER it my duty to bring under your official notice certain statements which have come to my knowledge within the past few weeks through the medium of the public press as well as by direct communications. These statements suggest grave doubts as to the existence of proper discipline in the Workhouse of *Dromore West*, in the County *Sligo*, and they likewise practically concern the rights and liabilities of the body of ratepayers in that Union.

It would appear from the information which has reached me that an illegitimate infant has been registered in the books of the workhouse, and has been constituted a charge upon the resources of the Union, under circumstances not merely peculiar in their nature, but I venture to say unparalleled in Ireland. I am not informed whether the infant was actually born within the workhouse, but I believe it is an unquestionable fact that the mother is a young woman who held up to less than a month ago the position of workhouse schoolmistress. Articles and letters referring to the case have appeared in the local press, and they leave no doubt whatever that a definite impression prevails in the locality as to the identity of the person who should properly be made liable to provide for the maintenance of the child. If this impression should turn out to be well founded, the question will then arise whether laxity in the discipline of the workhouse at *Dromore West* led to the shame and ruin of one of the female officials of the establishment, and, if so, whether any influence exerted in the appointments of the chief officials has contributed to the occurrence of the scandal.

I am informed that the infant is now an inmate of the workhouse, and continues to be a charge upon the rates; that the mother has left the house, and that up to the present no measures have been adopted to remove the charge for maintenance of the deserted infant from the ratepayers of the Union to the person whose liability it is the duty of the guardians, if possible, to establish and enforce.

It will, I think, be obvious that a matter of this description cannot possibly be allowed to escape inquiry. The interests of the ratepayers of the particular union concerned, the interests involved in the proper administration of the laws for relief of the poor, and furthermore, the great interests of public morality, necessitate a strict investigation.

I therefore deem it my duty to submit the case to you, and to demand that a sworn inquiry be instituted.

The Right Honourable the  
Chief Secretary.

I am, &c  
(signed) *Thomas Sexton.*

— II. —

COPIES of the OFFICIAL NOTES of EVIDENCE taken at the INQUIRY by Captain Spaight, Local Government Board Inspector, into certain matters connected with the Management and Discipline of the WORKHOUSE at Dromore West, County Sligo, and his REPORT thereon; of the consequent LETTER of the Secretary of the Irish Local Government Board to the Clerk of the Dromore West Board of Guardians; and, of COMMUNICATIONS on the subject from the Dromore West Board of Guardians to the Irish Local Government Board.

	PAGE
1. Notes of Evidence taken by Captain Spaight - - - - -	2
2. Captain Spaight's Report thereon - - - - -	10
3. Letter from the Local Government Board to the Board of Guardians - - - - -	13
4. Extract from Guardians' Minutes of 26th November 1880 - - - - -	14
5. Letter from the Local Government Board to the Board of Guardians - - - - -	14
6. Extract from Guardians' Minutes of 3rd December 1880 - - - - -	15
7. Extract from Guardians' Minutes of 17th December 1880 - - - - -	15
8. Extract from Guardians' Minutes of 31st December 1880 - - - - -	15

NO. 1.—NOTES of EVIDENCE taken by Captain Spaight at the Inquiry by him into certain matters connected with the Discipline and Management of the WORKHOUSE of DROMORE WEST UNION.

First Evidence.

ELLEN KELLY, being duly sworn, states:—

I am the hospital nurse, and have been so for 13 years.

I remember the late schoolmistress of the workhouse, Miss Kiolehan. She was confined in her own room on the 14th September, and gave birth to a female child. Catherine Cawley, a patient in the hospital, was present at the time; I saw Miss Kiolehan three hours after the occurrence.

She told me that on New Year's Eve she saw a man in her room after being some time in bed. She said she fainted and knew nothing more till she saw him leave the room. She left the workhouse a week after and took the child with her. She told me she did not know the man who entered her room. She told me she had no idea of who the father of the child was.

I have seen officers of the house under the influence of drink. I have seen the master under the influence of drink many times. I have also seen the matron, Mrs. Lavelle, on several occasions, in the performance of her duty, drunk. I have also seen the porter under the influence of drink in the performance of his duties, but not for the last twelve months.

Miss Kiolehan had a key for her own door and could go in or out as she liked. Any person going into her room would have to pass through the girls' dormitory.

A few days after the child was born, Miss Kiolehan told me she had a suspicion as to who was the father of the child, and that the person whom she suspected was once before in her room. She said she got a letter a few days after without a name to it. I cannot recollect what she said about it. The master has been drunk and incapable of doing duty during the last week.

I have been down to the front part of the house on duty after hours but never found the doors open. I have known female friends of the officers allowed to sleep in the house; I have

I have often seen the master under the influence of drink previous to this week. I have seen the master and the matron under the influence of drink at the same time.

Miss Kiolehan never mentioned the name of Peter Hale in connection with the birth of her child before it was christened, but she told me afterwards the child was Peter Hale's. I have frequently seen Mr. Peter Hale in the house in the middle of the day.

I never saw any familiarities between Miss Kiolehan and Mr. Hale, who is a brother-in-law of the medical officer of the workhouse.

(signed) *Ellen Kelly.*

#### Second Evidence.

MR. WILLIAM BROWN LOUGHEED, being duly sworn, states:—

I was the guardian who proposed that the late schoolmistress should be allowed to withdraw her resignation. Miss Kiolehan said to me a few days before the election of schoolmistress, she wished to offer herself for re-election in consequence of some aspersions made against her character, and that she wished to establish her character.

On the day of her re-election, I told her if she got a doctor's certificate proving she was not, as alleged, in the family way, I would support her. She did not get a certificate, although she said she would.

Dr. Mahon told her he could not give her a certificate without examination. She objected to be examined in the dispensary as it was an exposed place, but arranged with Dr. Mahon that he was to call at her sister's the next day for the purpose. This all occurred in my presence, and she said, "You know I am innocent."

She was elected unanimously by the Board of Guardians. There were eight candidates, but she was unanimously re-elected.

At the subsequent election of schoolmistress no mention was made, to my knowledge, of the late occurrence, but it might have been in my absence from the room. I was present at the election.

(signed) *W. B. Lougheed.*

#### Third Evidence.

THE REVEREND EDWARD TIMLIN, being duly sworn, states:—

I was acting chaplain of the workhouse in September last. On Sunday morning the 19th September, it was very wet, and when I came to the workhouse the master asked me into his room, and told me the story of the birth of the schoolmistress' child, and asked me to have the child baptized in the girls' room. I said it was against the rules of the church to do so. He replied, unless I did so the mother would not allow the child downstairs, and that there was a danger to her having the child baptized by Mr. Harrison, the Presbyterian Minister. I went from the room to the chapel. Miss Kelly, the hospital nurse, asked me to go and see Miss Kiolehan.

I asked her if she was willing to allow the child down to be baptized; she said, "Why not, by all means; but Miss Kiolehan wishes to see you first, before the child is baptized, after mass." I went to Miss Kiolehan's room and expressed my regret at seeing a person in her position in such a situation; she was much affected and cried. I asked her who was the father of the child. She replied *Peter Hale*.

I remarked, she was most unfortunate in being seduced by such a person, as she had nothing to expect from him, no hope of marriage.

She said she was not to blame, as she found him in her room at night. She said she had the key, but never locked the place; but on the night in question, the hospital nurse being on leave, she being tired from doing the nurse's work, retired to her room earlier than usual, having had a falling out with the matron.

When she awoke, in the middle of the night, she saw standing at her bedside a man, whom she believed to be Peter Hale. In answer to a doubt expressed by me, she said there were three other circumstances that confirmed her in her belief. These happened after the occurrence on the night in question. After this I christened the child in the chapel, and gave it the name of Estella, at the request of the mother.

I was about a fortnight acting as chaplain; during that time I never observed any irregularities in the house.

I don't recollect writing to any person on the subject. And I did not write any letter with reference to Mr. Richard Hale either publicly or privately.

Miss Kiolehan never used the word Emma with reference to the baptism of the child. She appeared to me to have no doubt as to the paternity of the child. When she answered my question as to who was the father of the child, it was the first time the name Hale was mentioned. She implied that the occurrence took place during her state of unconsciousness.

(signed) *E. Timlin, c.c.*

## Fourth Evidence.

CATHERINE CAWLEY, being duly sworn, states:—

I am an inmate of the workhouse, and will be in it three years next January. I was present when Miss Kiolehan was confined; the child was born early in the morning; I was called to assist by Miss Kelly; before the baby was born Miss Kiolehan said she was innocent, and said one night she saw a man in her room standing by her bedside, and fainted, and saw nothing more till she saw him going out of the room. She said she thought he was in bed with her during the time he was there; she said two or three days after that she got an anonymous letter, with Sligo post-mark, telling her not to be afraid, there was no harm done. She told me she knew no more of the father of the child than I knew after the baby being born.

Ellen McDonald and Maria Hart (or Conlon) were present.

I did not tell Captain Spaight all this when he asked me in the hospital on a previous occasion; before the baptism she said she had a suspicion Mr. Hale was the father of the child; Ellen McDonald was present when she said this, on many occasions. I never told anybody what I could prove or not; I don't know Mr. Hale.

(signed) Catherine Cawley.

## Fifth Evidence.

Miss ANNIE KIOLEHAN, being duly sworn, states:—

I was schoolmistress in this workhouse for three years last April, till I resigned in September last.

I was confined in the workhouse on the 14th of September. I stated at that time, to those attending on me, that the cause of my being in the family way was the presence of a man in my room on the night of the 31st December last.

I went to bed earlier than usual that night and went to sleep for a time. I awakened with a noise in the room some time in the night. I saw a man standing near the bed. That man was Peter Hale. I said nothing; I fainted when I saw him, and became unconscious. Had he left then I should not have known him.

After I recovered consciousness I found him in the bed. He might have been an hour or two there. He got up and went away. It was not daylight then. He was on other occasions in my room before this night.

He was in my room after 3 o'clock in the day on this occasion. It was only once before; he remained a quarter of an hour. Nothing occurred then.

I often met Mr. Hale outside the workhouse previous to 31st December. I have met him when I was out with the children walking. He spoke to me on these occasions. I have also met him when I was on leave at Enniskerry. I also met him during the week I was on leave. I met him twice in the workhouse during the month of December.

The first time he was in my room was in October. There have been other men in my room; a cousin of mine, Peter Wall. He was there about 3 o'clock. He was coming from a fair, and came to see me; the porter asked me if I could take him over and get him something. My door was never locked.

I occasionally locked the door leading to the dormitories, but not always.

During the time I was in the house I have frequently seen the master and the matron under the influence of drink; they were so drunk they were unfit for duty.

I have also seen the porter under the influence of drink, and the clerk; the latter in the Board room and the store.

I saw Mr. Peter Hale in the House during Christmas week of 1879. I saw him in the matron's parlour; he was then drunk.

My sister was staying with me for a week previous to 31st December, and left that day.

I met Mr. Peter Hale before she left. He asked me if my sister had gone home. I said she was likely to go on the evening car.

The matron should have seen the doors locked. They were generally open.

I know Mary Sweeney. She is the mother of an illegitimate child. She slept in the children's dormitory. I have known her to be absent after 9 o'clock from the dormitory. I have known her to return at 1 or 2 o'clock in the morning.

During the Christmas week the master and matron were both under the influence of drink, and incapable of doing duty.

After I recovered from my faint on the night of 31st December I recognised the man in the bed with me as Peter Hale. He is the father of my child.

One of the children on the following morning, called Winny Hanley, and another named Maria Cawley, said they heard a noise in my room and heard me scream. The porter also asked me what was the matter with me, because he heard one of the children say they heard me scream in the night. Some time after I met Mr. Peter Hale out walking, in the month of January. He walked before me at Freetlands. He said, "Have you had any midnight visitors since?" I said, "No."

I never

I never had any improper or illicit connection with my cousin, Peter Wall. I never had any connection with any man but Peter Hale, and I never had with him, except on the occasion named in the workhouse here.

I am about 25 years old. It is said I was a pauper in the house.

I consider it as great a sin to tell a lie as to swear a lie.

On the 31st of December I knew Mr. Hale after I became conscious.

He remained in bed with me against my will the whole time. I did not become unconscious a second time.

There were about six persons in the dormitory, outside my room that night. Mary Kennedy was in the habit of sleeping in the dormitory.

I did not scream the whole time; I screamed as long as I was able and as loud.

I told everyone that I was perfectly innocent, and on the day of my election I told Mr. Loughran the same.

I refused Dr. Mulron to examine me in the workhouse, but if he would come to my sister's place he might do so.

I was out till half-past two or three o'clock one morning. I was in Mrs. Larrisssey's on that occasion at a party given to the choir girls by her. There was dancing. I did not dance. I came home with Misses Trimble and their mother.

I met Peter Hale on the 13th January on the path at Frostdale, on the avenue leading to the house.

I spoke to him and stopped, he having called me. I remained a quarter of an hour speaking to him. He did not kiss me on that occasion, but tried to. No one was present but the two of us.

I have been in America, and was there 12 months. I was in New York. I went because I failed at my examination as a teacher.

In January 1880, I slept one night in my cousin Peter Wall's house, in the beginning of the month. I heard he was the father of an illegitimate child.

I prevented him, Mr. Hale, from having any connection with me on the night of the 31st December as long as I was able.

I received a letter with the Sligo post-mark on it about the 1st or 2nd of January, an anonymous letter.

It told me not to tell anybody what occurred on the 31st December, as there was no use in my getting myself disgraced. It must have been not earlier than the 2nd of January I got the letter. I never told anyone of it till the child was born.

I know Mr. Cowley, school inspector. I have been alone with him in his own parlour and in Miss Dondican's parlour. Miss Lavelle was with me on one occasion. I asked her to leave the room. Mr. Cowley asked her to go down stairs, and she did so; I never made him a present.

Peter Wall took a ring off my table once. I sent to him to get it. Peter Wall has been alone with me. He went to America this spring.

Mr. Feston, Solicitor.] Had you ever a conversation with anyone on this subject, with the exception of your relatives and your solicitor?—A. I have.

Give me their names?—I can't recollect them all. One was John Killecullen, Pat Connor, John Connor, and others.

I never had any improper intercourse with the school inspector. It was for the purpose of telling me something about Mrs. Lavelle that the inspector sent her daughter out of the room.

I don't think it extraordinary that I said nothing of the occurrence on the 31st December last year.

I did not report the irregularities in the house, because I was the youngest officer in the house. The doctor knew of it, and hospital nurse was aware of them.

When there was a report, no notice was taken of it. The matter was brought before the Board, and I heard the Board considered the report unfounded.

The chairman told the master, at the board meeting, he was drunk, and the chairman asked me why I did not report, and I said I sent for the master to do so, but the daughter said he was not well. The chairman said he was drunk.

Mr. Peter Hale lives in Ensey, 26 miles from Sligo.

(signed) Annie Kiolehan.

#### Sixth Evidence.

The Reverend JOHN JOSEPH O'KEANE, being duly sworn, states:—

I have been 12 months chaplain of the workhouse.

I have during that time had opportunities of seeing the general description and management of the house.

I have seen officers of the house under the influence of drink; I have seen the master so. On two or three occasions, except one occasion, I thought him able to discharge his duties; on that occasion not efficiently. I think the classification in the house was not strictly enforced.

My attention was called to the state of Miss Kiolehan some time previous to her resignation; it was reported to me by the master, that the Inspector, Captain Spaight, had called attention to her state.

I noticed the females with the males, and the doors open at times. I spoke to the master or the porter on the subject; I think the master.

The sister of Miss Kiolehan came to me, and I advised her sister to cause her to resign; this she did.

I was away on service at the time the child was born.

Miss Anne Kiolehan attended mass regularly. I never heard anything that would lead me to believe she is unworthy of credit on her oath. I never remember saying so.

I never heard Mr. Peter Hale's name mentioned in connection with her till the child was born.

She stated to me, on the day of her re-election, that she had a letter, and showed it to me, her application for the office of schoolmistress. She led me to believe she was innocent.

I have seen the master early in the day under the influence of drink.

I know Mr. Peter Hale; I believe him as worthy of credit as Miss Kiolehan.

Mr. Peter Hale, I believe to be a person of loose habits; my opinion is formed from both personal observation and general rumour. I have never known anything that would lead me to believe him unworthy of credit on his oath.

I spoke to the master on more than one occasion; the last time in the presence of Mr. Patrick Tirman I cautioned him. I never saw the master theologically drunk.

(signed) *John J. O'Keane, P.P.,*  
The Chaplain.

## SECOND DAY.

### Seventh Evidence.

MARY KENNEDY, being duly sworn, states:—

I am an inmate of the workhouse, Dromore West, and I have been so, I think, about five years; I am laundress in the house.

I was sleeping in the girls' dormitory on the 31st of December last; I usually slept there by leave of the master and matron.

I was sitting with Miss Kiolehan by her fire till between 10 and 11 o'clock p.m. When I went to bed I heard nothing till next morning, as I was leaving Miss Kiolehan's room I asked her for her keys; she told me to take the keys; I did so, and locked the dormitory door; one of the school girls, who slept in the dormitory, opened the door; in the morning I saw her open it; it was then locked.

No one could have opened the door without breaking the lock; I did not notice anything unusual with the linen on Miss Kiolehan's bed on that week; I am a bad sleeper.

I did not hear Miss Kiolehan screaming.

I don't know how to read or write.

I know this is the 16th of the month.

New Year's Eve was on Wednesday. This is the month of November.

It is since the birth of the child I heard a man had passed into Miss Kiolehan's room on New Year's Eve. Miss Kiolehan told me herself. I never heard that a man passed through the dormitory.

I often locked the door by direction of Miss Kiolehan before and after. I could give no date on which I locked the door, before or after, but I remember that night.

The matron and Miss Kiolehan gave the supper to the paupers on that night.

I can't say how long I was in Miss Kiolehan's room.

We were talking about her getting her health out of the workhouse; I have a good memory, but I cannot remember a conversation of 12 months ago; I remember this because it was a remarkable night; I was not in Mr. Hale's house for 10 or 11 years, but I have been out of the house.

I never met any member of Mr. Hale's family, or spoke to them, except when brought into the board room, and Mr. Hale as Chairman spoke to me.

I don't know how many keys were on the bunch. There were three keys on it that morning. I cannot swear how many keys were on the bunch that night.

I never saw Mr. Peter Hale in any part of the house, but when he came in with the doctor, and I did not see him on that day. I cannot swear that he was not in the house without the doctor.

I have seen an officer of the house under the influence of drink. It was the master; I also saw the matron, but I was not sure. It was more than once within the last 12 months. I saw no other officer so.

I have noticed all the doors left open on Thursdays; I had no other opportunity of seeing them at night.

I never heard of anyone coming into the house, except the gate was opened by the porter, I had no opportunity.

I do not remember any conversation on the evening of the 31st December, except the one mentioned.

*Mary (her x mark) Kennedy.*

## Eighth Evidence.

MARIA CAWLEY, a girl in the workhouse school, states :—

I am 12½ years old, and I have been about three years in the workhouse.

I remember New Year's Eve. I heard nothing unusual that night.

I don't remember speaking to the porter, or telling him so.

The dormitory door is not always locked.

Navy Kennedy did not always sleep in the dormitory.

I never saw a man in the dormitory. I think I saw Peter Wall once or twice in Miss Kiolehan's room.

Wlany Howley did not tell me she heard anything.

I never told anybody I heard a noise on that night. I did not tell Miss Kiolehan in the presence of the porter that I heard a noise.

I am the daughter of Catherine Cawley. I don't know if I saw my mother or not. I think I did see her yesterday morning; after I saw Miss Kiolehan I told her I was talking to Miss Kiolehan.

My mother spoke to me about Miss Kiolehan, and told me to tell the truth. All the old women were in the room at the time.

(signed) *Maria Cawley.*

## Ninth Evidence.

WINNY HOWLEY, being duly sworn, states :—

I am a girl in the workhouse school. I don't know how long I have been in the house. I sleep in the girls' dormitory.

I remember hearing a scream in Miss Kiolehan's room, it was about last Christmas; it was in the middle of the night; I heard several screams. I spoke to the girls about it next morning; I spoke to Mary Bruen.

I heard bare feet coming up at her bed. I heard the door open after I heard the screams, not long after, the outside door; the door was locked by Mary Kennedy the night before.

I heard the keys rattling; it was dark, and I saw nothing.

I remember seeing Mary Kennedy in Miss Kiolehan's room that night; she usually slept in the dormitory, but not always. I never saw any man but Peter Wall in the dormitory. I don't remember when. I only saw him once.

I distinctly remember the night of the 31st December. Miss Kiolehan called Maria Cawley into her room, and Maria Cawley went in. She went in immediately.

I have heard Miss Kiolehan has fainting fits. I only saw her once in a faint.

I don't know if she lighted a candle. I only heard one scream. I am certain of this. I saw Maria Cawley going into Miss Kiolehan's room. I was asleep when she came out. I saw no one.

I heard the bare feet in the room about half an hour after I heard the scream. I don't know how long after Maria Cawley went in. I believe about half an hour. I don't know if it was Maria Cawley coming out of Miss Kiolehan's room. I cannot say whose the bare feet were. It might be Maria Cawley. I don't know.

I did not see her going into the room; there was no light.

*Winnie Howley.*

## Tenth Evidence.

JOHN McNAMARA, being duly sworn, states :—

I am the porter of the workhouse, Dromore West, and have been so for four years on the 22nd of next month. During that time I have seen officers of the house under the influence of drink. I have seen more than one. I have seen them so on many occasions.

Those officers were the master and matron, and no one else. I have seen both drunk within the last week, early in the day. I have never seen this drunkenness lead to irregularity.

I have never seen the door left open, except when the turf was going round.

Persons could enter the house at night without my knowing it. Any of the walls round can be climbed easily.

No one could open a gate without my knowledge. No one could to my knowledge open the gate; the master has no key for this gate.

I have seen strangers drunk in the master's room. I saw Thomas Barris drunk in the master's room on St. Stephen's day.

It would be possible for any person to get into the master's room without my knowing it. There is a large window in the front of the house. Any person could pass through this window, in or out, but I don't know to my knowledge they have done so.

A man might have come into the house on the 31st December. He could come into the girls' yard and up the stairs into the dormitory; there is no obstacle in his way.

My book is a true report of the persons who go in or out of the house.

Peter Hale never spent a night in the workhouse, to my knowledge, but the night of the 30th January 1878. He came in at half-past one p.m., and went out at half-past three p.m., next day. He was with the master in his room.

Since the master was reported by the chairman, Mr. Peter Hale has not been in the habit of coming to the house except occasionally with the doctor. He had no welcome from the master.

The chairman is the father of Mr. Peter Hale.

I did not see Peter Hale in the workhouse during the Christmas week, or on the 31st December 1878.

The schoolmistress, Miss Kiolehan, was not out on the 31st December 1878.

No one told me there was a man in Miss Kiolehan's room on the night of the 31st December.

It would require a ladder to get up to Miss Kiolehan's window, that would take two men to put up.

I invariably fulfilled my duty in entering any one who either came in or went out of the house in my book. I put down any person coming into the body of the house.

Mr. Peter Hale was in a few times with the doctor, but I did not put him down.

Mr. Peter Hale could not be in the house up to nine o'clock p.m. on the 31st December.

I do not remember if he was in the body of the house during the year 1879.

It was my duty to lock the doors at nine o'clock, and give the keys to the master. I did not invariably do so; I always kept the keys myself. I mean the inner keys; I gave the outer keys to the master. *The master never took the keys from me.*

Mr. Peter Hale's name is not in my book, except once, for the last two years and ten months. During that time he has not spent an hour in the body of the house, to my knowledge, nor has ever but once been in the body of the house. I never saw Mr. Peter Hale leave the house without seeing him come in to it. I never saw him on any occasion in the house without my having admitted him, nor any one else.

The master keeps the matron's keys in his own room.

It is possible for the master or matron to admit anyone without my knowledge.

The master was drinking during Christmas week 1878, and so was the matron.

I always kept the keys and did not give them to the master.

Any person could be admitted by Miss Kiolehan from the yard to her room without the knowledge of the master.

Mr. Peter Hale often came without coming into the house; he remained outside. He has had no welcome from the master lately.

I have never fulfilled my duty, as laid down in No. 8 of porter's duties of the general regulations.

(signed) *John McNamee.*

#### Eleventh Evidence.

MARY REA, being duly sworn, states:—

I am an inmate of the workhouse since December last. I stay in the nursery.

I have seen some of the officers of the house under the influence of drink. I saw the master and the mistress on a Sunday in May last; the master came up through the house and left the doors open; he was then under the influence of drink. Some of the women went down to the potato store. On passing I heard the porter's voice in the master's parlour. This was the only occasion I saw the doors left open.

On the occasions I mentioned the master acted like one who had drink taken, and I thought so by his talk.

(signed) *Mary Rea.*

#### Twelfth Evidence.

Miss ANNE KIOLEHAN, being recalled, and questioned on her former oath, states:—

I did not call Maria Cawley into my room on the 31st December last, and she did not come in.

I did make an effort to get away from the man in my room that night, but he held me and mounted me. I never mentioned this to my sister.

(signed) *Anne Kiolehan.*



## Thirteenth Evidence.

MARIA CONLAN, being duly sworn, states:—

I am an inmate of the workhouse for about three years.

I have seen officers of the house under the influence of drink. I have seen the master so. I have seen the matron so. I don't remember seeing any other for the last 12 months.

On those occasions it led to no irregularity. The doors were always kept locked, and classification preserved.

I heard Miss Kiolehan say she did not know who was the father of her child on the day the child was born, and before the birth, while she was ill, half-an-hour before it.

I never saw Mr. Hale but on one or two occasions about the house.

I live in the day-room; Mr. Peter Hale might be in the house without my seeing him.

I never heard till the day the child was christened that Miss Kiolehan said Mr. Peter Hale was the father of the child.

When I saw the master under the influence of drink he was in my opinion fit for duty.

*Maria (her x mark) Conlan.*

## Fourteenth Evidence.

Mrs. LAVELLE objects to being sworn, being in the family way, but states:—

I am matron of Dromore West Workhouse nearly eight years.

I remember the birth of the child of the schoolmistress on the 14th of September last.

I heard nothing officially till Captain Spaight called my attention to the state of the schoolmistress on the 4th of September. I did not take notice of her state before this, because I was not sure.

I remember Captain Spaight telling me I ought to call the attention of the Chaplain to it. I never did so as directed. I saw her the day she was confined.

On the morning before her confinement the Doctor asked her in my presence who was the father of her child, and she replied, she found a man in her room one night after being asleep for a while, and then that she got a letter from Sligo immediately after.

I visit all the children's and women's wards about nine o'clock every night, and I ascertain that they are all in bed and fires and lights extinguished.

I think a woman could not get in and out of the girls' dormitory except by the use of some of the officers' keys.

On the night of the 31st of December the schoolmistress and I had a few words. The landress slept in the dormitory. I heard nothing of any occurrence on that night till after the birth of the child.

Mr. Peter Hale did not within the last three years spend a night in my room; he did so four or five years ago.

He has been in my room since. He has been under the influence of drink in my room.

I have also known him come to my window and tap at it at night; a man was dying on the road side, he came to let us know; he came in after 8 o'clock p.m. in September or October. This was four or five years ago; Mr. Peter Hale has not been in the habit of being in my place since my husband was reported by his father.

I asked Miss Kiolehan who was the man who came into her room, and she said she did not know, but that he wore a grey coat.

Mr. Peter Hale has been in my room for the last two years, but not often, and only for a few minutes. I might have left him there alone. He could come into my room without the porter knowing it. It would be possible to get into my room by the window.

I have never seen Mr. Peter Hale but once in my room under the influence of drink, and I have not seen him so for five years.

Miss Kiolehan did not tell me the man spent two hours in her room.

I alone gave the supper to the paupers on the 31st of December 1879.

I know Mary Sweeney; she is an inmate of the house. She slept at one time in the children's dormitories (the girls'). I was told she was in a state of intoxication one night. I did not go to see; I was not told of it till afterwards.

(signed) *Mary Lavelle.*

## Fifteenth Evidence.

Mr. THOMAS LAVELLE, being duly sworn, states:—

I am master of the workhouse, and have been so since the year 1873.

It is not my habit to take the keys from the porter at night (the inside keys).

I visit the dormitories regularly every night, not the infirm wards, at or about 9 o'clock; sometimes at 10 o'clock.

I have regularly received the entrance keys from the porter every night, and I give them to him at a discretionary hour in the morning.

Mr. Peter Hale did not come to my rooms during the Christmas week of 1879, nor on the 31st December 1879. He was not about the workhouse on that day. I had no communication with him, for I thought his father an enemy of mine since he reported me.

I have spoken to Mr. Peter Hale since, and have once or twice given him a glass of grog in my room. I am subject to a disease, and it is diarrhoea and cramps in my stomach, and it is necessary for me to take spirits occasionally. I have been ordered by a doctor to do so.

I refer to the visiting committee.

The visiting committee visit the house nearly once a week, on an average once a fortnight; always on board days.

(signed) *Thomas Lovell.*

#### Sixteenth Evidence.

The Reverend JOHN GRIFFIN, F.R., Easkey, being duly sworn, states:—

I have no personal knowledge of the state of the discipline of the workhouse of Dromore West, or of conduct of the officers.

I have had a conversation with Miss Kiolehan since the inquiry was ordered, with reference to the fact of her employing a solicitor in her interests. I don't recollect Mr. Richard Hale's name being mentioned. Mr. Peter Hale's name was mentioned of necessity.

I had a conversation with Mr. Timlin after the baptism of the child.

Miss Kiolehan's sister asked me to employ a solicitor for her. I had advised her to employ one, and named Mr. Maxmion.

Easkey is 2½ miles from Dromore West.

(signed) *John Griffin, F.R.*

#### Seventeenth Evidence.

Doctor CHARLES JOSEPH MAHON, being duly sworn, states:—

I am the medical officer of the workhouse of Dromore West. I have been so for about five years. I am son-in-law of Mr. Richard Hale, the chairman, and brother-in-law of Mr. Peter Hale.

I have observed during that time the officers of the house under the influence of drink. I have seen this on more than one occasion. I have seen the master and the porter so, but no one else. I call being under the influence of liquor, being incapable of duty. I have not seen the master drink since his re-appointment, and the porter was about two years ago.

I never noticed any irregularity in the house.

Mr. Peter Hale sometimes came with me, and waited while I visited the patients.

I was present when Miss Kiolehan was confined. She said she did not know who was the father of her child. She said she saw a man in her room once, but she did not know him.

I never saw Peter Hale with Miss Kiolehan.

Mr. Hale came with me to the house for pleasure. He might have gone anywhere while I was in the nursery. He might have drank grog in the master's room, and familiarities might have passed between him and Miss Kiolehan without my knowledge.

I never suspected Mr. Peter Hale had any connection with her. I did mention another officer as the father of the child in jest.

She told me she could swear she was not in the family way.

(signed) *Charles J. Mahon.*

#### Eighteenth Evidence.

Mr. PETER HALE, being duly sworn, and the charges read to him, states:—

I am the son of the chairman of this board. I am the brother-in-law of Doctor Mahon.

I occasionally drove to the workhouse with Doctor Mahon, about seven times in the last 12 months. I went about three times through the body of the house. I never remained more than a few minutes. On those occasions I merely accompanied Doctor Mahon.

I recollect the 31st of December last. I live in Easkey. I was there that day; it is 2½ English miles from Sligo. It was a very wet day. I was not at the workhouse on that day. I did not enter the room of Miss Kiolehan that day or night. I never had any improper intercourse with her or used the least freedom with her.

I never

I never walked a step with her. I never had a conversation with reference to midnight visitors. I never wrote a letter to her. I have spoken to her in the board-room, but never anywhere else. I never spoke to her in Fortlands. I have seen her there with others; Miss Gavin and the head constable's daughter.

I have seen her walking with Peter Wall by herself.

I saw her going towards Fortlands alone with a man about 8 o'clock at night, in the town of Easkey.

I never tried to kiss her or took any liberty with her. I took no interest in Miss Kiolehan. I know Peter Wall was a cousin of her's. I did not think it remarkable to see her walk with her cousin, but I remember it.

I saw her walk with a married man named Carty, a carpenter in Easkey. He is not summoned here.

I was in the habit of coming to the house five years ago, but not lately.

The year before last I came oftener than this year; sometimes I did not come for a month; but I came without the doctor to the house. I came the day Mr. Sexton was in Easkey, and I came to see that the seed potatoes were delivered in our districts.

I was also here on another occasion for papers.

I was here on another occasion about October 1879. I was in Mr. Lavelle's room for about 10 minutes. I have had grog in Mr. Lavelle's room within 12 months on more occasions than one; about three times; and at least twice the year before.

I was always on good terms with Mr. Lavelle.

I have shaken hands with Miss Kiolehan more than once. I had conversations with her; one or two words.

I remember spending the whole day at Easkey on the 31st of December 1879. I was not in Dromore West on that day, or in the workhouse.

I have heard it said I was the father of the child. I was surprised to hear it.

I remember the 31st December very distinctly, because of the hand coming there to a land meeting. It was expected but did not come. I slept in my father's house that night. I was in bed till quarter after seven next morning. I sleep over the hall door alone. I went to bed at 10 minutes after 11 o'clock. My servant went to my room with me and brought down my boots. I told him I would be going to first mass in the morning.

I saw the female servant, too, that night, and in the morning in the kitchen, and asked her what time mass would be. I have spoken to both since and asked them if they remembered the 31st of December. I asked them if they could prove I was in the house all night. They said they could.

I never read a book called "Kneebess," or got a book from Miss Kiolehan in my life.

(signed) *Peter Hale.*

#### Nineteenth Evidence.

JOHN NEILON, being duly sworn, states:—

I am employed by Mrs. Anne Carty of Easkey. I superintend the butcher's establishment.

I recollect New Year's Eve last year because a carman went for a band, and we expected the band, and were waiting for him.

I met Mr. Peter Hale in Easkey that evening after the car came back, about 8 or 9 o'clock.

I never told any one I saw Mr. Hale on that night.

Mr. Peter Hale asked me if I remembered what he said to me that night.

Easkey is about two miles from the workhouse.

I had conversations with other people on that day, but don't recollect them; we were all excited.

I have no interest.

*John (bis x mark) Neilon.*

#### Twentieth Evidence.

PAT. O'HARA, being duly sworn, states:—

I recollect the 31st day of December last year. I recollect it because it was a wet night, and we were expecting a band.

I saw Mr. Peter Hale that night. I was then in Mr. Richard Hale's employment.

Mr. Peter Hale walked with me that evening; he was there the whole evening. We came to the house together. He went to bed at 11 o'clock. I went up to take his boots, as he said he was going to early mass. I left them on the table in the kitchen. I found them at 8 o'clock next morning in the same place. Mr. Hale came down in the morning before I had the boots polished.

I don't recollect what time Mr. Peter Hale went to bed on Christmas 1879, nor Easter Sunday. I recollect many nights his going to bed, but can't fix any date or time. We used generally to go to bed at 10 o'clock.

Mr. Peter Hale was talking to me since I got the summons. He did not speak to me about this case till I got the summons last night. He did not speak to me except in Mr. Fenton's presence.

I never spoke to anyone about the case till I spoke to Mr. Hale and Mr. Fenton last night.

I am not now in Mr. Hale's employment.

Mr. Hale has more than one pair of boots.

(signed) *Pat. O'Hara.*

### Twenty-first Evidence.

**BRIDGET WHITE**, being duly sworn, states:—

I remember New Year's Eve last year, 31st December 1879. I saw Mr. Peter Hale that night in his father's house. I am a servant there now, and was then.

I saw Mr. Peter going up stairs about half-past 10 o'clock. I was in bed at 11 o'clock. I did not see him till morning about nine o'clock.

New Year's morning is the morning after Christmas night, and that is what I am swearing.

I don't know what time Mr. Peter Hale went to bed on Easter Sunday, or when he got up on Monday morning.

I don't read or write: this is the 16th of the month.

I cannot fix the time Mr. Hale went to bed on any other night but the one.

The night before New Year's Day is little Christmas Eve.

We were expecting the head on that evening.

I can't tell what time he went to bed on this Christmas night.

The head did not come till the following day. I saw them, and I remember the following day well.

I can't tell what time Mr. Hale went to bed that night.

I never spoke to Mr. Hale about this case. But I spoke to Mr. Fenton last night. I never spoke to any one but Miss Hale before last night. I told her what I could prove.

I remember seeing the clock that night; it was half-past 10 when he went to bed.

*Bridget (her x mark) White.*

STATEMENT showing the Number of Times the late SCHOOLMISTRESS left the House, &c. &c., from the 15th November 1879 to the 15th January 1880.

Date.	BUSINESS.	Time of Going Out of the Workhouse.	Time of Returning to the Workhouse.	Observations.
1879:				
15 November -	To Easkey - - - -	12.0 noon	4.30 p.m.	On 3rd December.
18 " -	With school children - -	3.30 p.m.	4.30 "	
19 " -	- - ditto - - - -	3.30 "	4.30 "	
22 " -	To Easkey - - - -	12.15 "	4.0 "	
23 " -	" see a friend - - - -	6.0 "	9.0 "	
28 " -	With school children - -	3.30 "	4.30 "	
29 " -	To Easkey - - - -	12.0 noon	4.0 "	
2 December -	" see a friend - - - -	3.30 p.m.	10.0 a.m.	
6 " -	" Easkey - - - -	12.0 noon	4.30 p.m.	
18 " -	- - ditto - - - -	12.0 noon	4.30 "	
19 " -	Walk with school children -	3.30 p.m.	4.30 "	
20 " -	To Easkey - - - -	12.0 noon	4.30 "	
22 " -	With school children - -	3.30 p.m.	4.30 "	
23 " -	- - ditto - - - -	3.0 "	4.0 "	
25 " -	To walk - - - -	11.0 a.m.	2.0 "	
26 " -	With school children - -	2.0 p.m.	3.15 "	
29 " -	- - ditto - - - -	1.0 "	2.0 "	
1880:				
3 January -	- - ditto - - - -	11.45 a.m.	1.30 "	On 12th January.
4 " -	Leave of absence - - - -	10.0 "	11.0 "	
13 " -	With school children - -	3.15 p.m.	4.30 "	
14 " -	- - ditto - - - -	3.30 "	4.30 "	
15 " -	- - ditto - - - -	4.0 "	4.45 "	
17 " -	To Easkey - - - -	12.0 noon	5.0 "	Mr. Peter R. Hale's name does not appear on porter's book from 15th November to 15th January.

The above is a true extract taken from the Porter's book.

15 November 1880.

*M. Doudson, Clerk of Union.*

No. 2.—REPORT from Captain *Spaight* thereon.

Gentlemen,

Loughglin House, Castlereagh,  
17 November 1880.

I HAVE the honour to report that in accordance with your instructions I held an inquiry on oath at the workhouse, Dromore West, on the 15th and 16th instant, into the general management and discipline of the house, as well as the charges of misconduct on the part of some of the officers of the house.

I opened the inquiry at 12 o'clock on the 15th instant, and sat till half-past six o'clock p.m., and resumed at 11 o'clock on the 16th instant, and sat till the same hour as the evening before.

I regret to have to report most unfavourably of the general conduct and habits of the master, Mr. Lavelle, and his wife, the matron.

The charges against the other officers of the house were not, in my opinion, supported, only one evidence (the late schoolmistress) having made any charge against the clerk; she also accused the porter of having been under the influence of drink some time ago; this was supported in some degree by the evidence of the medical officer, but as it referred to a period of three or four years ago, and there does not appear to have been any repetition of it, I am not of opinion that it amounts to anything very serious; but taking all the circumstances into consideration, and having carefully studied and weighed the evidence, which has been strengthened by what I have myself seen, I am of opinion that the master and the matron should be called upon to resign, and in the event of their failing to do so, dismissed by a sealed order.

The master was under the influence of drink on both afternoons of the inquiry, and very much so on the 16th instant.

I could not consistently with a proper sense of duty recommend that either should be left in charge of an establishment where so much care and attention is required.

I failed to elicit, in my opinion satisfactorily, the fact of any evidence of actual immorality in the house, for it is only borne out by the evidence of Miss Kiolehan, the late schoolmistress, and I cannot place implicit reliance on her testimony, which clearly showed a good deal of animus, but where the master and matron are constantly tipping there cannot be the same order and regularity there ought to be; and the example shown to the other officers and the inmates must have a most pernicious effect.

I enclose the minutes of evidence, together with a certified extract of the porter's book, showing the times at which the late schoolmistress left the house and came in again from 15th November 1879 to 15th January 1880. From the evidence I am inclined to think the girl was seduced outside the house, and I do not credit the statement that Mr. Peter Hale gained access to her room.

The Local Government Board,  
Duhlin.I have, &c.  
(signed) *George Spaight*.

## No. 3.—LETTER from the Local Government Board to the Board of Guardians.

Local Government Board, Duhlin,  
23 November 1880.

Sir,

REFERRING to their letter of the 21st ultimo, relating to the birth of an illegitimate child in the workhouse of Dromore West Union, the mother being the late schoolmistress of the workhouse, Miss Kiolehan, the Local Government Board for Ireland desire to acquaint the board of guardians that they have now received the Report of their Inspector, Captain *Spaight*, of the inquiry which he was instructed to make into the matter; and the Board enclose, for the Guardians' information and consideration, the evidence taken by Captain *Spaight* on the subject.

Attached to the evidence will be found certified extracts from the porter's book showing the occasions on which the late schoolmistress left the workhouse and returned between the 15th November 1879 and the 15th January 1880; and in directing the special attention of the Guardians to this matter, the Board think it right to point out that the evidence is not at all conclusive as to whether

the immorality of which Miss Kiolehan was guilty took place in or out of the workhouse; the absence of the schoolmistress on the occasions recorded in the porter's book would justify the opinion that her pregnancy might have been caused by acts of immorality outside.

On the other hand, however, the Local Government Board believe that the carelessness of the master and matron, as disclosed in the evidence, was such as to permit of much laxity of conduct on the part of persons living in the workhouse, and the Board regret to learn that for some time past both these officers have been addicted to habits of intemperance; in fact the Board are informed by Captain Spright that the master was under the influence of drink on both days of the inquiry.

Under these circumstances the Local Government Board are of opinion that the care of the establishment should no longer be left in the hands of the present master and matron; and the Board must accordingly request the Guardians to call on these officers to resign their respective situations forthwith, otherwise the Board will be constrained to dismiss them by sealed order.

The Guardians will see from the evidence that it will be necessary to caution the other officers concerned in the recent investigation, that any established charge against them of inebriety or irregularity will be most seriously dealt with.

You will be good enough to cause the minutes of evidence to be preserved, and returned when no longer required by the Guardians.

The Presiding Chairman,  
Board of Guardians,  
Dromore West Union.

By Order of the Board.  
(signed) *B. Banks, Secretary.*

No 4.—EXTRACT from Guardians' Minutes of 26th November 1880.

Gentlemen,

Workhouse, 26 November 1880.

We beg to tender you our resignations as master and matron of your workhouse, giving you the usual month's notice.

We are, &c.

The Guardians, Dromore West Union.

*Thomas Lavelle, Master.*  
*Mary Lavelle, Matron.*

The resignation of the master and matron is accepted this day. Advertisements will be issued on this day week for master and matron.

Miss Kiolehan, late schoolmistress, having come before the Board and agreed to pay 1 s. 6 d. per week towards the maintenance of her illegitimate child,—

*Resolved*,—That Miss Kiolehan's application be accepted, and in default of payment legal proceedings to be taken against her.

No. 5.—LETTER from the Local Government Board to the Board of Guardians.

Sir,

Local Government Board, Dublin,  
2 December 1880.

THE Local Government Board for Ireland have had before them the minutes of proceedings of the Board of Guardians of Dromore West Union on the 26th ultimo; and with reference to the Guardians' resolution, on the application from Miss Kiolehan, late schoolmistress of the workhouse, to be allowed to have her illegitimate child kept in the workhouse, she agreeing to pay 1 s. 6 d. a week towards the cost of its maintenance, the Local Government Board desire to state that this is not an arrangement which can be properly carried out unless the infant is sick and in need of hospital treatment.

The Clerk,  
Dromore West Union.

By Order of the Board.  
(signed) *B. Banks, Secretary.*

## No. 6.—EXTRACT from Guardians' Minutes of 3rd December 1880.

Read letter from Local Government Board, dated 2nd December 1880, No. 34,782, relative to the application of Miss Kiolehan, late schoolmistress of the workhouse, to be allowed to have her illegitimate child kept in the workhouse, she agreeing to pay 1 s. 6 d. a week towards the cost of its maintenance, the Local Government Board desire to state that this is not an arrangement which can be properly carried out unless the infant is sick and in need of hospital treatment.

"This letter will receive the attention of the Board of Guardians."

## No. 7.—EXTRACT from Guardians' Minutes of 17th December 1880.

Relieving Officer Connolly is directed to notice Miss Kiolehan to take her illegitimate child out of the workhouse, or either to become an inmate of the house. If not, legal proceedings will be taken against her.

## No. 8.—EXTRACT from Guardians' Minutes of 31st December 1880.

Read letter from Local Government Board, dated 30th December 1880, No. 37,480, requesting that the Local Government Board may be informed of the result of the direction given with respect to the illegitimate child of Miss Kiolehan, late schoolmistress of the workhouse.

"Miss Kiolehan has taken her child out of the workhouse."

## — III. —

LETTER from the Under Secretary to the Lord Lieutenant of Ireland to  
Mr. Sexton, M.P.

Sir,

Dublin Castle, 8 January 1881.

WITH reference to your letter of the 11th October last respecting certain statements which had come to your knowledge, and which suggested grave doubts as to the existence of proper discipline in the workhouse of Dromore West, I am directed by the Lord Lieutenant to inform you that the subject matter of your communication was brought under the notice of the Local Government Board; and the latter, as the result of an inquiry held by their inspector, on the 23rd November, addressed a letter to the Board of Guardians of Dromore West Union expressing their opinion that the care of the establishment should no longer be left in the hands of the then master and matron, and requested the Guardians to call upon those officers to resign their respective situations, informing them further that the board would otherwise be constrained to dismiss them by sealed order.

The Guardians were at the same time informed that it would be necessary to caution the other officers concerned in the matters investigated.

On the reading of that letter the master and matron at once tendered their resignations, which were accepted, and new appointments have since been made by the Board of Guardians.

I am to add that his Excellency has been further informed that it appears from the Guardians' minutes of the 31st ultimo that the late schoolmistress has taken away from the workhouse her illegitimate child referred to in your letter.

I am, &c.

(signed) T. H. Burke.

Thomas Sexton, Esq., M.P.,  
House of Commons, London.

## REFERENCES

[illegible]

1000

Approved by the House of Commons, on 16 February  
1877.